

## THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

NFAC 1718-81  
25 March 1981MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence  
Committee

FROM:

[REDACTED]  
Special Assistant for Nuclear Proliferation  
Intelligence

SUBJECT:

Request for JAEIC Study [REDACTED]

1. Acting Assistant Secretary of State (OES) T. Pickering has requested that an Intelligence Community assessment be prepared concerning the nature and significance of current activity at the Thar Desert nuclear test site in India. The assessment should address the following particular issues: a) the likely purpose for the emplacement point that is being prepared (including an estimate of when it will be ready for use), b) other conceivable purposes for which it might be used, if any, and the bases for positing such purposes, and c) whether or not it could be used somehow in the testing of missiles or their components. [REDACTED]

2. This is to request that the JAEIC prepare the assessment in the form of a brief paper (about two to three pages or so). In connection with item c, above, please arrange the participation of appropriate Community analysts of missile R&D. The paper will be used by senior policy officials in conjunction with sensitive ongoing diplomatic activity. [REDACTED]

3. It is requested that the JAEIC paper be available no later than 3 April 1981. Copies should be provided to all participating agencies. [REDACTED]

cc: Thomas Pickering, Acting Assistant  
Secretary of State (OES)  
James Malone, Acting Director, Arms  
Control and Disarmament Agency

[REDACTED]

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